(b) if so, the result thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) how the Ministry proposes to stop migration of rural workers for employment; and

(d) whether there is any scheme to encourage the educated youth to work in rural India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. NREGA was launched in 200 identified districts on 2.2.06 in the first phase and has been extended to 113 additional districts with effect from 1.4.07. In accordance with Section 1(3) of the Act it is to be extended to all the districts within a period of five years from the date of its enactment *i.e.* September, 2010. Monitoring of the implementation of NREGA is done on a regular basis by the Government. State and district level Monitoring and Vigilance Committees have been set up. Periodic review meetings have been undertaken by Minister of Rural Development and Secretary (Rural Development) from time to time. National Level Monitors (NLMs) and Area officers of the Ministry visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. States have been asked to set up Village level vigilance and monitoring committees for local monitoring. Moreover, a period of only 15 months has lapsed since launch of the Act.

(c) NREGA aims at providing wage employment to the rural poor on demand basis by providing employment opportunities in the vicinity of their inhabitation.

(d) Adult members of all rural households, who volunteer to do unskilled manual work, are entitled to get employment under the Act, irrespective of their educational background.

Less employable women in labour market

3766. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDAANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent findings of the

International Labour Organisation that only 36 per cent of employable women are actively engaged in labour market compared to 82.2 per cent men;

(b) if so, whether it is due to lack of suitable opportunities or congenial work environment like low wages, lack of social protection, etc., which keep employable women away from engaging themselves in labour market; and

(c) whether Government propose to launch special drive to evolve women-friendly engagement culture, through more education, specific training, so that women contribute towards economic growth of the country,and simultaneously raise their standard of living thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its report "Global Employment Trends for Women-2007" has indicated that in South Asia, 36% of the women are economically active as compared to 82.2% of men.

(b) Lower participation of women in the workforce is due to various factors like societal attitudes, low literacy rate, less trained women force etc.

(c) Under the National Policy for Empowerment of Women, Government is taking various measures to create an environment for the development of women through positive economic and social policies, to enable them to realize their full potential, greater employment and equal access to education and health.

In addition, Government has been running number of Programmes/ Schemes with a view to enhance and broaden the employment opportunities including self-employment and development of entrepreneurial skills of women. A number of training institutions have been set up by the Central Government in different parts of the country specifically for the skill training of women which include National and Regional Vocational Training Institutes.

High unemployment rate among Christians

3767. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Christians have the highest unemployment percentage in India, compared to other communities;